Dear Dave,

11/14/74

Now that I've caught up on what accumulated during two long and tiring trips to Memphis on the Ray case and hearing and with the printer not yet having delivered copies of the new book, before getting into the day's work, an update/reminder.

There has been no further word from Freed. Not have I heard anything further on Lewis' intentions, progress or anything else.

I presume with Freed it means that he has not come up with the financing or he is unwilling to spoil his proposal out.

I believe you were going to speak to Lewis and ask him directly these questions we discussed, including does he plan using my work.

The outcome of the Ray case can't but help a movie with the right approach. However the case ends. And the end has to be a year away unless the State and federal people are wise enough to accept certain formulae I have built into the recent work and in effect cop out. They ar hardheads but I believe this is not impossible.

The right approach has to exclude two temptations: pretending the solve the crime with fiction; pretending as Executive Action did that the planners of the assassination are known. I think the story of the investigation/defense can make a good movie. It could also be honest. And an encouragement to people who look at their country and see no reason for hope.

To a degree I am making the factual records needed in several ways, all part of my immediate obligations or hopes for the future, that all this work will be part of a permanent archive in some place of scholarship.

When it seems appropriate I'm taping recollections. Last week with one reporter, until 1 a/m. this morning with another, who is to give me the tapes after he writes his piece for Rolling Stone. This afternoon some of the history faculty and probably some students from the local college are coming for an account of what really happened in this last hearing. It was farout behind the scenes and precedent in the courtroom. (I had great fun anticipating the surprise witnesses the state would call and kidnapping them on the stand, converting from from rebuttal witnesses against us into our own witnesses, even experts. Including even a Bantam vice president and house counsel. The State finally gave up and quit rebuttal.)

Between these two interviews two publications spoke to me about the ancillary rights to this new book. From one, Harper's Magazine, I got the impression there can also be future interest. That is, in other of my work.

My situation is such that I'll have to grab at anything that can help.

Two stories that may amuse you and your wife. After a few days of hearings, with the testimony I lined up going rather effectively and with a formula that was really spelling out the proof that Ray did not kill King, during the regular morning break I went into the hallway for a smoke. Martin Waldron of the NYTimes came up to me and asked, "Harold, aren't you ashamed of yourself?" Why?" I asked. "For fuckin' up the whole FBI, the State of Tennessee and Shelby County," he said, then laughed. And the time the State asked for a break to determine its course, after we had kidnapped the last of the rebuttal witnesses they put on, again while I was smoking, Martin put that bears arm around me and with a hug said, "You old bastard, don't you know what overkill is?" He then invited me to the party the major-media reporters were having that night and with the testimony itself over I took the first night off for fun. Only I worked during it, too, with the fun. By accident the State AG's people came into the restaurant in which we ate between bouts of drinking. That time was fun but also was not wasted!

Best regards,